REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were presented for examination. The Office Action indicates that:

(a) The drawing changes proposed April 16, 2003 were approved.

(b) Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,618,198 to Dale et al.

(c) Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dale et al. Patent in view of US Patent No. 5,785,544 to Linden et al.

(d) Claims 8-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dale et al. Patent in view of US Patent No. 4,691,080 to Reinhart et al.

Claims 1-15 are presented for reconsideration. It is respectfully submitted that the application as amended satisfies the statutory requirements of 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a). Accordingly, reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Preliminarily, it is noted that the Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 13 to replace the word "complimentary" with the word "complementary", which better corresponds with the description at page 5, lines 13 and 19, and page 6, line 24, and the Abstract at line 8.

The new Drawing 1/1 is submitted in response to the indication at Item 11 of the Office Action Summary that the proposed changes are acceptable.

With regard to the prior art rejections, it is noted that the Applicant has invented an improved electrical connector for connecting electrical conductors (e.g., of thermocouples and field cables) in hot, highly radioactive

environments around nuclear reactor pressure vessels. As is discussed in the specification at page 2, lines 7-22, compression fittings have been used in the art in this service. However, the compression fittings may rotate and become loose and ultimately fail with loss of a thermocouple signal.

The Applicant's connector has a first and a second elongated, tubular, metal housing. This arrangement enables connector pins supported by the second housing to be readily crimped with the conductors and then the connector assembly to be completed. Importantly, the first housing has a first end adapted to be metallurgically joined (brazed according to Claim 2) to the sheath surrounding the electrical conductor. Advantageously in later use, the metallurgical joint prevents the connector from twisting relative to the conductor (due to mechanical interference with a protective sleeve) and loosening the crimped connection of the supported pin. See, in this regard, page 7, lines 7-10, Of the description.

It is respectfully submitted that the Dale et al. Patent does not teach or suggest the Applicant's connector having a first housing with a first end sized to closely receive and prepared to be metallurgically joined with the sheath. As the Office Action analyzed the Davis et al. Patent, the Dale et al. connector has a first housing 34,89/(seal cap 77?) in combination with a second housing 42 for connecting a first conductor 21,22. However, Items 34 and 89(77?) are the seal body and cap portions of a compression fitting. See, in this regard, the Dale et al. Patent Figure 4 and at column 5, lines 26-56. Thus, the first end of the first housing is not prepared to be metallurgically jointed with the sheath and the body could be twisted by the Applicant's protective sleeve used to cover the connector.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-15 are patentable and that the application satisfies the statutory requirements of the statute. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by 37 CFR 1.16 or 37 CFR 1.17 as a result of this Reply to Deposit Account No. 50-0947.

Respectfully submitted,

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